

August - September, 2008

Welcome to the fifth issue of the MFF e-Newsletter!

This E-Newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies, partner organisations and other stakeholder groups up to date on MFF activities and news. We warmly welcome your contribution!

News/Announcements

Newcomers!



Suwimol Sereepawong has joined the MFF Thailand Secretariat as a Programme Assistant. Suwimol will assist the administration of MFF Small Grant Facilities (SGF) working closely with the MFF SGF National Coordinator and the MFF National Coordinating body (NCB). Suwimol has a BSc in Environmental Economics from Maejo University and an MSc in Technology of Environmental Management from Mahidol University. Prior to joining MFF, Suwimol worked for UNDP as a South-South Grants Facility (SSGF) Programme Assistant for 2 years. **E-mail:** Suwimol.Sereepawong@undp.org

Tom Christiansen is our MFF Communications intern based in the MFF Secretariat in Bangkok. Tom is currently completing his Masters Degree in Media Science at Aarhus University. Tom is going to stay for 4 months mainly focusing on developing content for an MFF portal, and other visual communications such as the recent MFF shortfilm to be launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. **E-mail:** tom@mangrovesforthefuture.org



Annika Harrison has also joined the Mangroves for the Future initiative as an intern. Annika is a Masters Degree Anthropology student at Aarhus University. She will undertake fieldwork connected to the BMZ Project. Annika is going to stay with us until the end of January, but will be spending most of her time around the IUCN Khuraburi field office area. **E-mail:** annika@mangrovesforthefuture.org

New MFF brochure now available on-line! www.mangrovesforthefuture.org



Regional Celebrations of the **International Day for Disaster Reduction and ASEAN Disaster Management Day**, scheduled to be held at the Theatre, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday 8 October 2008.

Viet Nam Joins MFF as a dialogue country!



In July 2008, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources requested that Viet Nam become an MFF dialogue country, in order to benefit from regional knowledge exchange and other joint activities, and is now officially an MFF dialogue country. Viet Nam faces similar coastal management issues as the other MFF countries. Moreover, with its high population density and low-lying agricultural land, the coastal communities of Viet Nam will be one of most vulnerable in the region to climate change impacts, especially sea level rise.

Dr Nisakorn, has been appointed deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) Thailand. She recently chaired her final meeting of the Thailand NCB prior to taking up her new position.



Farewell gathering at the recent meeting in Bangkok

31 October, Deadline for Small Grants Facilities and Large Project Proposals, Thailand



The deadline was set at the recent 5th NCB Thailand meeting 23 of September 2008 at the Kamolrudee Room Siam City Hotel, Bangkok Thailand. Other items discussed were the upcoming training course in Indonesia and the Mangrove Symposium in Ranong, co-hosted by the Department of Marine & Coastal Resources.

Community Tourism Efforts in Southern Thailand Win International SEED Award

Making sustainable development happen at community level
Bangkok, Thailand, 01 September, 2008

Andaman Discoveries, a social enterprise founded in 2006 as part of the North Andaman Community Tourism Network, is serving as a bridge between local villages and the private sector, and recently received the 2008 SEED Award for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development. Andaman Discoveries, was chosen from close to 400 applications from over 100 countries worldwide. Andaman Discoveries will use the Award to expand its partnerships with the local Community Tourism Network.



© Craig Lovell/Eagle Visions

Community members offer homestays, eco-tours, and other activities – allowing visitors to participate in the traditional way of life and have been assisted by Andaman Discoveries in these capacity building projects. In the last two years, community tourism has generated over USD 20,000 income for villagers, generating funds for a children's center, orchid conservation, and other community development projects.

Recent Events

Seventh General Assembly of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems, ISME, 21-24 August, 2008, TK Palace, Bangkok, Thailand

The Seventh General Assembly of ISME was followed by a workshop on *“Restoration of Mangroves and other coastal forests damaged by Tsunamis and other natural hazards in the Asia-Pacific Region: Review of lessons learned and proposals”*. The workshop was hosted by ISME in cooperation with Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

MFF coordinator Dr. Donald Macintosh shared the early experiences from the MFF initiative during the workshop. ISME is an international, non-governmental scientific society, with its headquarters in Okinawa, Japan. At present, ISME's membership includes 38 institutional members and 1 000 individual members from 86 countries. ISME is considered a potential Institutional partner for the MFF, which would bring mutual benefits to the MFF partnership, along with the already affiliated organizations who are working for conservation, rehabilitation and sustain management of coastal ecosystems.

Workshop on developing concept notes and large proposals for funding, 28-29 August, 2008



Cu Lao Cham, central Vietnam, © MFF Secretariat MFF

35 members from the MFF Thailand NCB gathered at the Maruay Gardens Hotel to attend a workshop on how to develop and review MFF large project proposals. The workshop was organized by DMCR, supported by the MFF Secretariat, and conducted by SIDA funded consultant, Tim Greenhow.

The two-day workshop discussed the MFF planning guidelines for large proposals development in Thailand. The programme focused on developing capacity to prepare and review large proposals. The second day included discussion on developing a communication strategy and what steps are needed in order to secure further funding for large proposals. Thailand is the first country to tackle large projects, as well as to set up a working group for completing and implementing communications strategy.

AIDCO Consultation meeting “Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean” an UNISDR-coordinated multi-partner funded by EC/AIDCO, at the Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand 17 – 19 of September 2008.

The overall aim of the meeting was to bring together partners from the “Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean” project to stimulate dialogue and to discuss experiences and future objectives of the project. The project, funded by the European Commission (EC) has India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives as focal countries and is aimed at building and strengthening national and community capacities on disaster risk reduction.

Hendricus Verbeek, UNEP and Don Macintosh, MFF Coordinator, shared the vision and goals of the MFF initiative, especially community resilience to natural disasters (Programme of Work 9) and discussed synergies for collaboration. This three-day meeting resulted in a better understanding of the linkages between the diverse actions required to achieve resilience. Standardised monitoring and evaluation frameworks, knowledge management tools, and visibility guidelines, were also shared and revised.

“Economic Development, Poverty Reduction, Environment and Climate” workshop in Bangkok, 17-19 September 2008

The workshop was held by UNDP, UNEP, EEPSEA and ADB GMS and was aimed at policy-makers from South East Asia.



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MFF at the Annual Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Meeting Exchange Sheraton Hotel, New York, USA, 23-26 of September, 2008.

Scott Hajost and Debbie Good, IUCN US Multilateral Office represented MFF at the CGI Exchange. The CGI annual meeting is an opportunity for members to identify different areas for collaboration. Part of the CGI meeting was the “Exchange”. Here invited experts on networking, marketing, social media and grant-giving organizations came together with the participants to enhance their cooperation abilities. The Exchange was not only a learning platform, but also a networking forum where participants could showcase projects and explore potential partnerships with new groups.



Scott Hajost at CGI Exchange

The Reef to Ridge Approach

Sound ecological and socio-economic coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and conservation in tsunami-affected countries of the Indian Ocean

The reef to ridge approach (PoW 3) is being applied to integrated community-based watershed and coastal ecosystems management in the provinces of Ranong and Phang Nga, Thailand and the Puttalam Lagoon in NW Sri Lanka, under the German Federal Government (BMZ) funded project '*Ecologically and socio-economically sound coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and conservation in tsunami-affected countries of the Indian Ocean*'.

Complementing the gradual decentralization and devolution of decision-making powers to the provincial and local governments, this project successfully demonstrates a number of simple but powerful tools that are fundamental in shaping the future of ecosystems conservation, not only for Sri Lanka and Thailand, but globally.

Integrated ecosystems management tools include: integrated assessments, including gathering and collating information of biophysical and socio-economic importance; combining scientific and local knowledge; recognizing and enhancing community conservation management and monitoring capabilities.

This project demonstrates what can be achieved through human networking, bringing together a breadth and diversity of skills, experience and knowledge from a wide range of people, including scientists, community leaders, local government and youths in support of a common long-term goal.



Participatory seagrass monitoring at Thung Nang Dam. © Pravit Munchuei

Demak District, Indonesia

In the Demak District, between Pantai Mero Sari (Kecamatan Sayung) and Pantai Mero Demak aquaculture has decreased and 200 households have already been relocated by the government due to coastal flooding.

Since the 1970s the Demak District has gone through a land use change. Mangrove forest has decreased, shrimp and milkfish culture has seen rapid growth, but this coastal resource-based development has also increased pollution and reduced water quality. Flooding has forced the government to relocate households; the flood situation is also detrimental to aquaculture while reduced water quality caused by pollution from households and nearby factories is an additional problem that has led to a near cessation of aquaculture over large areas of Sayung.



Field trip Demak, September, 2008

OISCA, an NGO funded by the Konica-Minolta Foundation, has been operating in this location since 2004. OISCA supports the local schools, maintains bridges, plants mangroves and is involved in alternative livelihoods and environmental awareness raising targeting the local population of about 3000 people. The government has provided some land to support OISCA's work, but the organization aims to replant mangroves in the whole abandoned aquaculture area by involving the local community in this effort..

The MFF regional training course (27-31 October) will use this coastal area as a field study site during the course. OISCA, the University of Diponogoro and local government staff and community leaders will be involved, as well as the course participants, trainers and facilitators.

Mangrove Action Projects (MAP) training workshop for sharing experiences on Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR)

Following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) recognized the need for training on "Ecological Mangrove Restoration" (EMR) to improve the effectiveness of mangrove restoration. Between, 2005-2008 MAP applied the EMR concept through several EMR trainings in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia for local communities, NGOs and relief agency staff.

The media attention given to mangroves following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami has resulted in many donors interested and willing to fund mangrove restoration projects, which on the surface is encouraging, but if not done properly will lead to more failures, frustrated stakeholders, and wasted funds.

What is needed is a more holistic approach to mangrove restoration, which looks at the entire coastal ecosystem, involves local stakeholders, and works with nature by encouraging natural regeneration.



Mangrove forest, Thailand, MAP Asia

MAP has set-up an EMR Yahoo e-group for workshop trainees and is inviting other interested persons, especially mangrove restoration practitioners, to join the e-group to share experience.

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/emr_group/ You can learn about Ecological Mangrove Restoration on MAP's website: <http://www.mangroveactionproject.org/map-programs/restoration/mangrove-restoration>

Jim Enright, MAP-Asia Coordinator, E-mail: mapasia@loxinfo.co.th

Upcoming Events

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES
Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development
13-17 October 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand

http://www.worldfishcenter.org/v2/files/4SSF_CA_E.pdf



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MFF Events at the IUCN World Conservation Congress



MFF- A New Climate for Change

17.30- 18.15 Tuesday 7 Climate Change Pavilion, launch of MFF shortfilm

The New Climate for Change stream at Congress will consider the challenges and solutions to the rapidly changing world – one in which the forces of climate change, globalization, and a growing demand for energy are increasingly impacting on biodiversity and people.

MFF will launch a short film and present some of the likely implications of a changing climate in relation to the conservation of coastal ecosystems and community resilience amongst coastal communities. This short presentation will be followed by a discussion on the nexus between coastal conservation and socio-economic development in the light of climate change.

MFF – A Unique Partnership for Healthy Coasts, Ecosystems and Communities in the Indian Ocean

09.30 - 11.00, Thursday 9 October 2008 (Room 116)

The “**Healthy Environments - Healthy People**” stream at the World Conservation Forum will provide an exceptional opportunity to investigate the challenges for biodiversity, ecosystems and livelihoods to foster sustainable solutions for the future. Based on the theme “Healthy Mangroves, Healthy People” the MFF workshop will address practical coastal ecosystem management issues. As an open initiative, the MFF affords sound opportunities for countries, institutions and all sectors of society (government, non-government, private sector and communities) to invest together as partners in coastal ecosystem conservation and sustainable development.

MFF Press Event

11.30 -12.00, Thursday 9 October 2008, MFF Press Conference on Why to invest in coastal ecosystems?

Contact: barcelona@mangrovesforthefuture.org

Learn more about the IUCN World Conservation Congress at: www.iucn.org/congress

Learning Opportunities at the Congress

Capacity building for tropical coastal ecosystems management using a dynamic teaching model

Monday 6 October, at 14.00 – 18.00, 1219

The Tropical ecosystem management learning opportunity organized by Aarhus University, illustrates effective capacity building through a dynamic teaching model that includes personal experiences and self-learning. This model is easy to adapt to local environments. The learning opportunity will give an introduction to ecosystems ecology and project management tools. It is aimed at giving participants experience in applying these in a real life situation. This learning opportunity is relevant for everyone working in coastal natural resource management (students, managers, consultants and capacity building organizations). The same teaching model will be applied at the MFF Regional Training Course in Semarang, Indonesia (see below).



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress.
Barcelona 2008.

http://intranet.iucn.org/kb/pub/wcc/forum_event.cfm?E1219/Final%20Document/

Regional Training Course on How to Apply Project Cycle Tools to Support Integrated Coastal Management, 27 – 31 October, 2008, Semarang, Indonesia.

A meeting of managers - working together to develop sustainable coastal environments. 36 coastal resource managers and project staff from 9 Indian Ocean countries will gather at Semarang on the island of Java, Indonesia October 27-31 October, for this first regional training course.

The aim of the course is to facilitate a forum to discuss and learn methods and tools for improvement and integration of coastal management: *economic valuation of natural resources, climate change and disaster risk reduction and community participation and livelihoods* are the three main themes of the course. These themes will be taught within the framework of project cycle management, in recognition of MFF's strong efforts to develop capacity at the coastal project level.

Participants will be able to practice hands on methods and tools in designing small projects, based on the condition of the coastline area of Demak near Semarang on the northern coast of Java. This coastal area is heavily affected by erosion, which has left large areas flooded and forcing the government to relocate several hundred people to safer ground. There will be a field trip to this site to investigate the main factors causing the flooding and degradation of natural ecosystems and resources in the area. The participants will then practice designing projects to mitigate these problems, or to improve livelihood and income opportunities for the local communities.

Due to the very high demand for places on the training course, applications have had to close, but the MFF Secretariat is planning to offer the course again in the near future. For more information, contact: Dr. John Poulsen, MFF focal point for Indonesia, poulsen@iucn.org; +66-892028690.

Ms. Ida Kusuma; NCB Indonesia MAFF, ida-k@dkp.go.id; ida-k@centrin.net.id; +62-816721516;

Scientific and Technical Symposium on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management,



22-25 November 2008, Tinidee Hotel Ranong, Southern Thailand

The *Symposium* is co-hosted and organized by the Department of Marine & Coastal Resources ([DMCR](#)), Thailand and Mangroves for the Future ([MFF](#)) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology ([AIT](#)), cenTER ([University of Aarhus](#)), Good Governance for Social Development and the Environmental Institute ([GSEI](#)), International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems ([ISME](#)), Thailand Environment Institute ([TEI](#)), and Wetlands International ([WI](#)).

Mangrove forest in the Ranong area, © MFF Secretariat

The Symposium will address sustainable management issues affecting mangrove ecosystems throughout the Indian Ocean Region, and how local communities can be better informed and involved in sustainable mangrove management as a way to protect their traditional livelihoods.

The objective of the Symposium is to improve the ability and national capacity of Thailand and the other MFF focal and dialogue countries to share information and experiences on how to apply knowledge more effectively to support management in a way that is both sustainable and beneficial to local people. This encompasses knowledge derived both through scientific research, and from traditional/local knowledge.

Put your news in the next issue of the MFF E-Newsletter!

Do you have any news or stories that you would like to feature in the next issue of the bi-monthly MFF Newsletter? We invite you to send in your latest news and updates on projects and other activities to: e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org.

About MFF

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem which builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami, as well as extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutions involved in coastal zone management. It focuses on the countries worst-affected by the tsunami; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as dialogue countries in the region that face similar issues. MFF uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem but is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems.

MFF provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors and countries who are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues, to work towards a common goal. Through generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action.

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